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THE JOURNAL

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X Sec 6 Cuba  
X Ag 2  
X Pers 3 F. CASTRO  
X Pers 2 C. A. HAYNIE

Cuba

Editor, The Journal:

I second the remarks (letters) in today's (Sept. 13) Journal, by Mr. Morse who has appealed for calm and reason in the Cuban situation. Once before, last year, when this nation "saw red" it committed a most awful blunder—a blunder which will take many years of patient diplomacy to overcome. That blunder was the ill-conceived Cuban invasion attempt.

I support the recent statements by President Kennedy which have assessed the situation correctly, and have noted that Cuban-Soviet preparations are defensive. Contrary to reports, there are still no missile bases in Cuba, nor fleets of invasion ships, nor anything of the sort. This is the kind of leadership the country needs. It does not need the kind of reckless, off-the-cuff, politically inspired nonsense that Senator Keating has been issuing.

I object to an article which appeared in today's (Sept. 13) Journal entitled, "Invasion Jitters—Castro's Fear Called Psychotic." The Gannett News Service features, in the guise of reporting, have been loaded with this kind of pseudo-reporting. Anyone who has been following the Cuban situation in the "responsible press" knows that Castro's fears are not psychotic. In fact, even a reader of The Journal can see this. We know that the Republican Party has been re-raising the issue of "invading Cuba" at this election time. We know that Cuba was invaded, once before, from American shores, under the direction of the CIA and with the knowledge of the President. At that time Castro warned of invasion. Nobody believed him then, and apparently we are preparing to commit the same error again.

I would like to believe that Kennedy had learned something from the abortive Cuban invasion of 1961. But when the opposition party (which includes the Southern Democrats and has thus become the majority party in this country) makes an election issue out of the Cuban situation, then nobody can predict what will happen.

Furthermore, the United States has allowed a succession of gunboats to take off from Florida and bombard Cuban and neutral (and even British) shipping and equipment on the Cuba mainland. Every Cuban, and by now every American, knows that these boats could not leave without American approval. I protest these forays. They must stop. They enhance the Cuban fears of invasion.

And lastly, I think that reasonable reporting does not include speculation about whether Castro, or anybody else, is neurotic, psychotic, or mad. Your reporter is in no position to know. A nation shows it is slipping when it must pretend to its own people that the opponent is mad or crazy.

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Editor's note: Mr. Haynie misreads his newspaper. Gannett

New Service simply reported the views of a State Department spokesman. As to whether Castro is neurotic, psychotic, or mad, we can only say that—after having seen and heard him in Washington in the spring of 1959—the Cuban dictator is certainly not normal.